Numb. 75

The TATLER.

By *Isaac Bickerstaff* Esq;

Quicquid agunt Homines nostri Farrago Libelli.

From *Thursday September* 29. to *Saturday September* 31. 1709.

From my own Apartment, September 30.

I Am call'd off from publick Dissertations by a Domestick Affair of great Importance, which is no less than the Disposal of my Sister *Jenny* for Life. The Girl is a Girl of great Merit, and pleasing Conversation; but I being born of my Father's First Wife, and she of his Third, she converses with me rather like a Daughter than a Sister. I have indeed told her, That if she kept her Honour, and behav'd her self in such Manner as became the *Bickerstaffs*, I would get her an agreeable Man for her Husband; which was a Promise I made her after reading a Passage in *Pliny's Epistles*. That polite Author had been employ'd to find out a Consort for his Friend's Daughter, and gives the following Character of the Man he had pitch'd upon:

Aciliano plurimum Vigoris & Industriæ quanquam in maxima Verecundia: Est illi Facies liberalis, multo Sanguine, multo Rubore, suffusa: Est ingenua totius Corporis Pulchritudo, & quidam senatorius Decor, quæ ego nequaquam arbitror negligenda: Debet enim hoc Castitati Puellarum quasi Præmium dari.

'*Acilianus* (for that was the Gentleman's Name) 'is a Man of extraordinary Vigour and Industry, 'accompanied with the greatest Modesty. He has 'very much of the Gentleman, with a lively Colour, 'and Flush of Health in his Aspect. His whole 'Person is finely turn'd, and speaks him a Man of 'Quality: Which are Qualifications that, I think, 'ought by no Means to be overlook'd, and should 'be bestow'd on a Daughter as the Reward of her 'Chastity.

A Woman that will give her self Liberties, need not put her Parents to so much Trouble; for if she does not possess these Ornaments in a Husband, she can supply her self elsewhere. But this is not the Case of my Sister *Jenny*, who, I may say without Vanity, is as unspotted a Spinster as any in *Great Britain*. I shall take this Occasion to recommend the Conduct of our own Family in this Particular.

We have in the Genealogy of our House, the Descriptions and Pictures of our Ancestors from the Time of King *Arthur*; in whose Days there was one of my own Name, a Knight of his Round Table, and known by the Name of Sir *Isaac Bickerstaff*. He was low of Stature, and of a very swarthy Complexion, not unlike a *Portugueze* Jew. But he was more prudent than Men of that Height usually are, and would often communicate to his Friends his Design of Lengthening and Whitening his Posterity. His eldest Son *Ralph*, for that was his Name, was for this Reason married to a Lady who had little else to recommend her, but that she was very tall and very fair. The Issue of this Match, with the Help of high Shoes, made a tolerable Figure in the next Age; tho' the Complexion of the Family was obscure, 'till the Fourth Generation from that Marriage. From which Time, till the Reign of *William the Conqueror*, the Females of our House were famous for their Needle-work and fine Skins. In the Male Line, there happen'd an unlucky Accident in the Reign of *Richard* the Third; the eldest Son of *Philip*, then Chief of the Family, being born with an Hump-back and very high Nose. This was the more astonishing, because none of his Forefathers ever had such a Blemish; nor indeed was there any in the Neighbourhood of that Make, except the Butler, who was noted for round Shoulders, and a *Roman* Nose: What made the Nose the less excusable, was the remarkable Smalness of his Eyes.

These several Defects were mended by succeeding Matches; the Eyes were open'd in the next Generation, and the Hump fell in a Century and half; but the greatest Difficulty was, how to reduce the Nose; which I do not find was accomplish'd till about the Middle of *Henry* the Seventh's Reign, or rather the Beginning of that of *Henry* the Eighth.

But while our Ancestors were thus taken up cultivating the Eyes and Nose, the Face of the *Bickerstaffs* fell down insensibly into Chin; which was not taken Notice of (their Thoughts being so much employ'd upon the more noble Features) till it became almost too long to be remedied.

But Length of Time, and successive Care in our Alliances, have cur'd this also, and reduc'd our Faces into that tolerable Oval which we enjoy at present. I would not be tedious in this Discourse, but cannot but observe, that our Race suffer'd very much about Three Hundred Years ago, by the Marriage of one of our Heiresses with an eminent Courtier, who gave us Spindle-Shanks, and Cramps in our Bones, insomuch that we did not recover our Health and Legs till Sir *Walter Bickerstaff* married *Maud* the Milk-Maid, of whom the then *Garter* King at Arms (a facetious Person) said pleasantly enough, That she had spoil'd our Blood, but mended our Constitutions. After this Account of the Effect our prudent Choice of Matches has had upon our Persons and Features, I cannot but observe, that there are daily Instances of as great Changes made by Marriage upon Men's Minds and Humours. One might wear any Passion out of a Family by Culture, as skilful Gardiners blot a Colour out of a Tulip that hurts its Beauty. One might produce an affable Temper out of a Shrew, by grafting the Mild upon the Cholerick; or raise a Jackpudding from a Prude, by inoculating Mirth and Melancholy. It is for Want of Care in the disposing of our Children, with Regard to our Bodies and Minds, that we go into an House and see such different Complexions and Humours in the same Race and Family. But to me it is as plain as a Pike-

a Pikestaff, from what Mixture it is, that this Daughter silently lowers, t'other steals a kind Look at you, a third is exactly well behav'd, a fourth a Splenatick, and a fifth a Coquet. In this Disposal of my Sister, I have chosen, with an Eye to her being a Wit, and provided, that the Bridegroom be a Man of a sound and excellent Judgment, who will seldom mind what she says when she begins to harangue: For *Jenny*'s only Imperfection is an Admiration of her Parts, which inclines her to be a little, but a very little, sluttish; and you are ever to remark, that we are apt to cultivate most, and bring into Observation, what we think most excellent in our selves, or most capable of Improvement. Thus my Sister, instead of consulting her Glass and her Toilet for an Hour and a half after her private Devotion, sits with her Nose full of Snuff, and a Man's Nightcap on her Head, reading Plays and Romances. Her Wit she thinks her Distinction; therefore knows nothing of the Skill of Dress, or making her Person agreeable. It would make you laugh to see me often with my Spectacles on facing her Stays; for she is so very a Wit, that she understands no ordinary Thing in the World. For this Reason I have disposed of her to a Man of Business, who will soon let her see, that to be well dress'd, in good Humour, and chearful in the Command of her Family, are the Arts and Sciences of Female Life. I could have bestow'd her upon a Fine Gentleman, who extremely admir'd her Wit, and would have given her a Coach and Six: But I found it absolutely necessary to cross the Strain; for had they met, they had eternally been Rivals in Discourse, and in continual Contention for the Superiority of Understanding, and brought forth Criticks, Pedants, or pretty good Poets. As it is, I expect an Offspring fit for the Habitation of City, Town, or Country; Creatures that are docile and tractable in whatever we put 'em to. To convince Men of the Necessity of taking this Method, let but one, even below the Skill of an Astrologer, behold the Turn of Faces he meets as soon as he passes *Cheapside-Conduit*, and you see a deep Attention and a certain unthinking Sharpness in every Countenance. They look attentive; but their Thoughts are engag'd on mean Purposes. To me it is very apparent when I see a Citizen pass by, whether his Head is upon Woollen, Silks, Iron, Sugar, Indigo, or Stocks. Now this Trace of Thought appears or lies hid in the Race for two or three Generations. I know at this Time a Person of a vast Estate, who is the immediate Descendant of a Fine Gentleman, but the Great-Grandson of a Broker, in whom his Ancestor is now reviv'd. He is a very honest Gentleman in his Principles, but can't for his Blood talk fairly; He is heartily sorry for it; but he cheats by Constitution, and over-reaches by Instinct.

The Happiness of the Man who marries my Sister will be, that he has no Faults to correct in her but her own, a little Byass of Fancy, or Particularity of Manners, which grew in her self, and can be amended by her. From such an untainted Couple, we can hope to have our Family rise to its ancient Splendor of Face, Air, Countenance, Manner, and Shape, without discovering the Product of Ten Nations in one House. There's *Obadiah Greenhat* says, he never comes into any Company in *England*, but he distinguishes the different Nations of which we are compos'd: There is scarce such a living Creature as a true *Britain*. We sit down indeed all Friends, Acquaintance, and Neighbours; but after two Bottles, you see a *Dane* start up and swear, The Kingdom is his own. A *Saxon* drinks up the whole Quart, and swears, He'll dispute that with him. A *Norman* tells 'em both, He'll assert his Liberty: And a *Welshman* cries, They are all Foreigners and Intruders of Yesterday, and beats 'em out of the Room. Such Accidents happen frequently among Neighbours Children, and Cousin-Germans. For which Reason I say, study your Race, or the Soil of your Family will dwindle into Cits or Squires, or run up into Wits or Madmen.

Advertisements.

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*** Dr. Nichols's Comment on the whole Book of Common Prayer, in large Folio, very good Paper and Character, with the Addition of three Mss. viz. one by Bishop Andrews, another by Bishop Cosins, and a third in the Hands of Dr. Hicks, being publishing, and in such Forwardness as to be ready to deliver to Subscribers by Christmas next; all those that intend to subscribe, are desired to send in their first Payment, being 5 s. and their Names to be printed, to any of the Undertakers; viz. R. Bonwick, W. Freeman, T. Goodwin, J. Walthoe, M. Wotton, S. Manship, J. Nicholson, B. Took, R. Parker, or Ralph Smith, Booksellers; where Proposals may be had, and Sheets seen how forward it is. Note, the Second Edition of the Gentleman's Recreations, in large Folio, with one half Additions, and near 100 Copper Cuts, will be deliver'd to Subscribers by the same Persons the first Day of next Term.

This is to give Notice to all Gentlemen and Ladies, That there is lately brought over a great Parcel of very fine German Cut and Carv'd Glasses, viz. Jellies, Wine and Water Tumblers, Beer and Wine Glasses with Covers, and divers other Sorts; the like hath not been expos'd to publick Sale before. They are forted into small Parcels, with some of every Sort, fit for a Sideboard: And will be sold by Auction on Thursday October 13th, 1709. at 5 in the Afternoon, at the Black-Boy Coffee-house in Ave-mary Lane, one End coming into Ludgate-street, London. The Goods are to be seen at the said Coffee-house, from this Day to the Time of Sale, from 12 till 6 at Night.

*** The Most Noble Volatile Smelling-Bottle in the World, which Smell'd to, Momentarily fetches the most dismal Fainting or Swooning Fits, and in a Minute removes Flushings, Vapours, Dulness, Head-Ach, Megrims, &c. It takes off all Heavy Sleepiness, retards Swoonings, keeps up the Spirits to a Miracle; and by its Use admits of no Faintings, but invigorates and enlivens the whole Man, recreates and makes chearful although never so sad, and in a Moment raises all the sensitive Faculties. It's also to be taken inwardly by Drops, which effectually takes off and eradicates the very Cause; for it potently relieves, comforts, and strengthens the Brain, creates and corroborates a Stomach, removes Sickness from it, helps Digestion, cleanses the Blood; and in a Word, is the greatest Cephalick, Stomatick, Hepatick, and powerful Aromatick possible; therefore is extream necessary for all Gentlemen, Ladies, &c. always to be carried in their Pockets, It only sold at Mr. King's, Picture-shop, in the Poultry, and at Mr. Overton's, at the Golden Buck, Picture-shop, against St. Dunstan's Church in Fleet-street, at 2 s. and 6 d. each, with printed Directions.

The only True Purging Essential Salt of Scurvy-Grass, the pleasantest Physick in the World, which effectually eradicates that reigning Disease: It purges gently by Stool, never vomits, but works pleasant, free, and safe, without Sickness, or almost any Disorder. It cools and refreshes Nature, cleanses the Body and Blood of all Filth, corroborates both, invigorates the Spirits, restores lost Stomachs, carries off the Remains of bad Wines, and is immediately necessary on all Occasions that require Purging: It's needless to say, it cures the Scurvy, Gout, Rheumatism, Dropsie, Jaundice, Green-sickness, Hypocondria, Melancholy, &c. for it opens all Obstructions of the Liver, Spleen, and Gall, powerfully resists Putrefaction, is Diuretick, helps Digestion, kills Worms, and brings them away both in Children and adult Persons. Is only Sold by Mr. Harrison, at a Wax-Chandler's at the White-Hart in the Poultry; and at Mrs. Cole's, at the Dial and Two Crowns, Toy-shop, against St. Dunstan's Church, Fleet-street, at 1 s. an Ounce, seal'd up with printed Directions.

THE Famous POWDER for the STONE, GRAVEL, and STRANGURY, that has perform'd so many remarkable Cures in those Cases, of which there are continued Instances. Certificates whereof, together with the Names and Places of Abode of many that have been relieved by it, too numerous to be inserted here, are to be seen at Mr. Rogers's, Bookseller in Fleet-street. There are likewise several large Stones that it has brought away from divers Persons, to be seen at Mr. Aylmer's, Bookseller in Cornhill: At both which Places only it is to be sold, for 5 s. the Paper, which contains 3 Doses, with Directions. The Person who prepares it, is to be spoken with every Tuesday and Thursday, between 11 and 12, at Mr. Rogers's Shop above mention'd.

A Plain and Rational Vindication and Explanation of the Liturgy of the Church of England. Collected out of the Discourses of some of the Reverend Bishops and Doctors of that Church, by Way of Question and Answer. With a short Explanation of the Lord's Prayer and Ten Commandments. By J. Glanbuck, Gent. The Fourth Edition, with large Improvements. Printed in a Volume convenient to bind with the Common-Prayer, proper for Schools, and may be acceptable to many of Riper Years. Sold by R. Whitlidge in Ave-Mary-Lane, and J. Morphew near Stationers-Hall, 1709. Price 6 d. or 100 for 4 l. to such as are Charitably disposed.